

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week commencing Sunday February 21st 2021, 1st Sunday in Lent

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
Mark 1 v 10-11

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The online provision for worship is as follows:

- The Church of England's national service on Sunday mornings can be found on our website at the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services>

- Fr Glenn is streaming Evening Prayer each Sunday evening at 6pm on our Facebook page. Please ask him for a link for the Order of Service.

- Mthr Victoria continues to offer Compline on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9pm. Just click ctrl+ and the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/victoria.barlow.750>

- You can also watch Rev Ruth Wilson offer **5.00pm Prayers**, Monday to Thursday on YouTube. Just click Control + [here](#) to view

Lent Zoom Course: A 5 week Lent course using Zoom begins this coming Wednesday morning (24th) starting at 11am. Fr Glenn writes *"We will be using a York Course written by Brian Davis called 'Caring for Creation'. The human race is facing its greatest challenge: the threat to the environment and climate change. Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening. If you would like to join this course, everyone is most welcome, please telephone or email me to express your interest so that resources can be ordered."* **Zoom log on details will be sent shortly.**

CTiR is asking for our prayers in February for Our Lady of Mount Carmel R.C. Church which continues to meet for services in accordance with government guidance, as well as an online service at www.eventcast.uk/live. Please pray for: - • The pastoral needs of the wider congregation. • Those in the church who have limited access to technology, and who may not want to attend Mass. • a Lenten challenge to walk 10,000 steps per day for the 40 days of Lent; which relates to the provision of water where water is scarce. • ACN, Aid To Church In Need which supports Nuns and Priests in war zones such as Syria, Iraq, former Communist bloc etc. (<https://acnuk.org/>) • SVP, Saint Vincent dePaul which works with local poor families (<https://www.svp.org.uk/>) • The several schools to which Mount Carmel is linked. • The Polish and Keralan communities linked to the church • Father Anthony Rohan the parish priest, Father Jason Mahoney (assistant priest), the permanent deacons Reverend Desmond Chilton and Reverend Peter Griffiths, plus the other parish staff • We

We pray for those who are sick: Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Pastor Robin Baker, Colin, Steven, Margaret Andrew, Bishop John, Brian Richards.

Sunday Stars: Results for the Christmas quiz can now be found online in the Sunday Stars section of the church website - as can a **new February letter from Irene**. Please make sure any young people you know are aware of this.

Calling Young Disciples: Father Glenn writes "The two Churches of The Bridge Headless Cross and Ss. Matthias & George Astwood Bank have been asked by Worcester Diocese if we would like to be a part of the 'Calling Young Disciples' project and be supported by one of the Mission Enablers for a 12 month period. The Calling Young Disciples project aims to help churches develop their thinking and engagement with young people and their families. The Mission Enabler is there to help facilitate our thinking and planning and to be a guide for us."

Anne Batchelor is to be our Mission Enabler and attached you will find a letter from Anne introducing herself and setting out what her role entails. Welcome Anne.

Coffee and chat: Many of us have been missing the opportunity to talk with each other during the time of this pandemic and the need to stay home and stay safe. Fellowship is really important and beginning on Tuesday **23rd February at 10am** there will be an opportunity to gather online using Zoom for fellowship, coffee and a chat. Make yourself a coffee or tea (biscuits are optional) and join us online for some time together. The coffee breaks will be weekly for 5 weeks, and you are free to drop in and out as you are able and share coffee and conversation from our homes. If you would like to join us then please let **Rev'd Ruth or Mthr Victoria** know and **the invite links will be shared with you closer to the time.**

Archbishops' invitation to prayer

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of, now over, 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer.

"We invite you to set aside a short time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love."

pray for the many souls who have died as result of Covid 19, and those who are sick

World Day of Prayer; 5th March: *Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this year's service. People of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity*

Thank you! Mthr Victoria would like to thank all those who sent blessed palms to her to provide ash for Ash Wednesday.

Please give notices for inclusion in next week's Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk Log onto our website for more information www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

You may wish to pray the following two prayers

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the
dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.
Attributed to St. Augustine

Loving Father God, be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick, hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government, and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.